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Title: Joe Takehara Interview
Narrator: Joe Takehara
Interviewer: Anna Takada
Location:
Date: November 15, 2017
Densho ID: ddr-chi-1-15-15

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AT: 01:04:05 Was there ever an expectation for you to work while in school?

JT: 01:04:10 No, never, the never had me. I think I was too young but I did work in high school. I did work. I used to be a busboy at Bismarck Hotel.

AT: 01:04:25 Where was that?

JT: 01:04:29 I think that was on Randolph. There was another theater there. Oriental Theater was on the same street, I think it was, the LaSalle Hotel was there and worked at the Bismarck at the coffee shop.

New Speaker: 01:04:43 So it was downtown?

New Speaker: 01:04:43 Yeah, downtown, coffee. I was a bus boy. How I got that job was my, one of my Mexican friends was, he worked there, a guy named Frank Lopez, I became good friends with, he was another guy and he used to be a boxer too, but he used to work. A lot of Mexican kids also had to work. And, uh, he got me the job because he worked there and that's how I got the job working there. And I was working there one time and one of the waitress wasn't giving me the tips, they get tips and they're supposed to give the bus boys so much. And she wasn't paying me. They're supposed to, you have three bucks or two bucks for the day or something. She wasn't giving it to me. She's only giving me a buck or something. So the cook, the chef, one of them was a Japanese guy and uh, we found out. So what happened is when she put the order in for the tables they were slow and she knew what was happening. So she got so upset one day she stepped literally back there and the cooks are, you go back and get the food and the bus boys, she started throwing dishes at me.

AT: 01:06:17 At you?

JT: 01:06:17 At me. Cause she knew why they were giving her a hard time. But anyway, it turned out good because she start giving me what I supposed to get.

AT: 01:06:34 And, um, can you tell me about this transition to, to Lakeview High School, you had to commute quite a bit then, right?

JT: 01:06:46 Well, it's, 900 South and the 4000th North. Used to take over an hour on the street car. I used to go there. I went to Lakeview and I first, the first few days I'm in the gym and I could do all this. I can't, I wasn't gymnasts or anything, but they put you on the rings you got, I can pull myself up and I can do most of the stuff. I see kids and that gym class, the coaches called Mr. Roth, Rothy, Rody, and he was the athletic director of the gym. And he was an old Turner. Turner was, came from uh, Europe, Germans. They used to do gymnastics and track and field. So he was one of those. So that's why we had the gymnasts apparatus there. They then have then have a gymnastic team, but he's, used to have that and he used, we used to go after school a couple of days a week and we used to, he used to call them rangers and we'd be doing gymnastics. And that's how I started once. So a good friend, who became my good friend of mine Carl Vogel, he's been doing gymnastics since he been a kid, at the Turner Hall, and so he saw me. So he come up to me. He was, he was in, not in my class just in gym. So he come up and he says, why don't I come go to him to Turner Hall so that's how I started gymnastics. So I started doing gymnastics. Started do it with him and I used to compete with the Turner groups. Yeah, I was, I was pretty strong, pretty athletic. I became a halfway decent gymnast in high school. But we didn't have a gymnastic team, we used to go to gymnastic tournaments from the Germans, we used to go to Sheboygan, Wisconsin up there by Milwaukee, Wisconsin University. And I remember we went up, we traveled to Buffalo, I think it was Buffalo, Buffalo, New York. Gymnastics, we went on a train and we did them. A few of us decided not to come home on the train. So we ended up in New York and went onto the boardwalk and we stayed at YMCA about eight of us in a one room. We went to Radio City. That was a big thing for us. We saw the Radio City, the chorus girls and all of that. Meanwhile, one of the guy's got sick so we all had to go back and you know, we'd be most of us, we came back on the bus.

AT: 01:09:40 What year were you at this for, at that point?

JT: 01:09:45 That was probably my last year in the high school.

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